

❖ ***The Signal Regiment is one of the largest and most diverse branches of the Army. Its mission is to provide worldwide information systems and networks for real-time command and control of Army, joint and combined forces.***

Today's Signal officers encounter unpredictable challenges that test their tactical and technical abilities. Along with these challenges, however, are tremendous opportunities for advancement and personal satisfaction. From the foxhole to the White House, Signal officers plan, install, integrate, operate and maintain the Army's strategic, operational and tactical information-systems infrastructure. This includes communications and computer systems and networks, as well as information services and resources

supporting wartime and peacetime operations.

As members of the Signal Regiment, Signal officers work hand in hand with Functional Area 24 (telecommunication-systems engineering) and FA 53 (information-systems management) officers to provide seamless, secure, continuous and dynamic information systems at all levels - from the fighting platform to the sustaining base - supporting Army, joint, Defense Department, combined and coalition warfighting missions with allied nations. Also key to the Regiment's work are its enlisted soldiers and warrant officers.

## **Signal officer's role**

Signal officers command Signal units engaged in installing, operating, administering and maintaining wide-area networks and information systems supporting tactical, theater, strategic and sustaining base operations. As commanders, Signal officers plan, coordinate and supervise training, administration, operations, supply, maintenance, transportation, security activities and resource allocation for Signal units and facilities.

Signal officers also serve as technical advisers by providing detailed technical direction and advice to com-

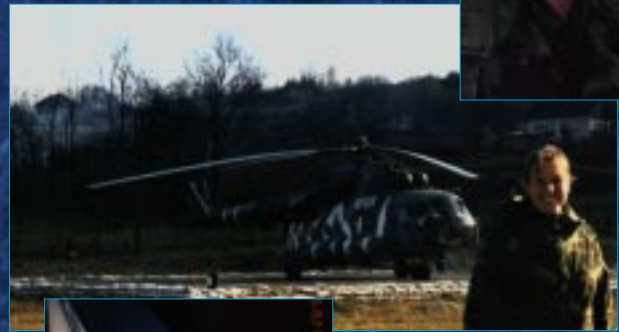
*CPT Kimberly Retchless  
Reserve Officers' Training Corps  
Western Maryland College  
Bachelor of arts in biology  
Site officer in charge  
Operation Joint Guard  
Sarajevo, Bosnia*

*"I served as a tactical-satellite site officer-in-charge in Sarajevo from February to June 1998. Our site's responsibility was to provide secure communications for the Stabilization Forces commander and his subordinate commanders.*

*"During those four to five months, I faced daily problems in ensuring quality and 100-percent communications at all times. I was in charge of about 15-20 soldiers at my site, while also keeping track of soldiers' movements in two other outposts (Mostar and Banja Luka). My job entailed making sure the outsites were provided for logistically as well.*

*"My site accomplished 100-percent uninterrupted secure communications. I did this while also providing leadership to my soldiers. And I learned that when Signal officers are supporting combat arms, they must stay on their toes."*

## **The Signal experience**



A helicopter assisted in visiting distant communications sites throughout Bosnia.



Soldiers maintain a 20-foot satellite dish at night in Sarajevo.